

1           1.       A decoding device for decompressing an audio and/or video signal that  
2           was compressed in accordance with a given compression method, comprising:  
3                 a program-controlled signal processor (5) which receives the compressed  
4           audio or video signal and produces a decompressed audio or video signal under the  
5           control of a decompression program;  
6                 a loadable program memory (6) which is connected to the signal  
7           processor (5), for storing the decompression program; and  
8                 a management device (7) which is connected to the program memory (6)  
9           and is controlled by the compressed audio or video signal; wherein the  
10          management device (7) manages decompression programs which correspond to at  
11          least two different compression methods in order to determine the respectively  
12          used compression method from the compressed audio signal, to select the pertinent  
13          decompression program and to load the decompression program into the program  
14          memory (6), wherein  
15                 the management device (7) includes an access device (15, 16) via which  
16          new decompression programs can be entered into the management device (7),  
17          and/or old decompression programs can be deleted.

1           2.       A decoding device as claimed in claim 1, in which the signal processor  
2           (5) and the program memory (6) are located in a signal processor (20), and  
3           wherein the management device (7) can load a decompression program into the  
4           program memory (6).

1           3.       A decoding device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the management  
2           device (7) has information about which decompression program is stored in the  
3           program memory (6), and only loads the decompression program to be loaded into  
4           the program memory (6) if there is a difference between the stored decompression  
5           program and the decompression program to be loaded.

1           4.       A decoding device as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least the signal  
2           processor (5) and the program memory (6) are integrated into a network.

1 5. A decoding device as claimed in claim 4, wherein other signal  
2 processors (20) and other program memories (19) are integrated into the network.

1 6. A decoding device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the access device is  
2 an interface (15, 16).

1 7. A decoding device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the access device is a  
2 signal source that is also suitable for producing audio or video signals.

1 8. A decoding device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the management  
2 device (7) has information about which decompression program is stored in the  
3 program memory (6), and only loads the decompression program to be loaded into  
4 the program memory (6) if there is a difference between the stored decompression  
5 program and the decompression program to be loaded.

1 9. A decoding device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the signal  
2 processor (5) and the program memory (6) are integrated into a network.

1 10. A decoding device as claimed in claim 9, wherein other signal  
2 processors (20) and other program memories (19) are integrated into the network.

1 11. A decoding device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the access device is  
2 an interface (15, 16).

1 12. A decoding device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the access device is a  
2 signal source that is also suitable for producing audio or video signals.

1 13. An automobile audio system with at least one signal source (1, 2) which  
2 produces compressed audio signals, a downstream signal processor (11, 12) and an  
3 audio decoding device (5) to decompress an audio signal that was compressed in  
4 accordance with a given compression method, comprising:

5 a program-controlled signal processor (5), which receives the  
6 compressed audio signal and from it produces a decompressed audio signal under  
7 control of a decompression program;

8 a loadable program memory (6) which is connected to the signal  
9 processor (5) for storing the decompression program; and

10 a management device (7) which is connected to the program memory (6)  
11 and is controlled by the compressed audio signal, and manages decompression  
12 programs corresponding to at least two different compression methods, in order to  
13 determine the respectively used compression method from the compressed audio  
14 signal, to select the pertinent decompression program and to load the  
15 decompression program into the program memory.

1 14. A decoding method for decompressing an audio and/or video signal that  
2 was compressed in accordance with a given compression method, by means of a  
3 signal processor (5) and a program memory (6) connected thereto,

4 wherein the respectively used compression method is determined from  
5 the compressed audio or video signal, the pertinent decompression program is  
6 selected and loaded into the program memory (6); and

7 wherein a decompressed audio or video signal is produced from the  
8 compressed audio or video signal under the control of the decompression program  
9 stored in the program memory (6).

1 15. A decoding method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the decompression  
2 program already stored in the program memory (6) is determined, it is then  
3 compared with a decompression program to be loaded, and if there is a difference  
4 between the stored program and the decompression program to be loaded, the  
5 latter decompression program is loaded into the program memory (6).